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Americas Watch Calls On U.S. Government To Suspend All Aid To Guatemala, Excepting Assistance Channeled To Needy

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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In a recent letter to Secretary of State James Baker, Americas Watch called for suspension all US aid to the Guatemalan government, with the exception of aid channeled to satisfying basic needs. The human rights monitor organization said the current level of repression in Guatemala resembles that of the regime of Romeo Lucas Garcia (1978-1982). The letter, dated May 3, was released to the press on May 15. In a report attached to the letter and forwarded to members of Congress, Americas Watch documented attacks on human rights advocates and monitors in Guatemala from late February to early May, 1990. In that period, four human rights activists were assassinated and two others were victims of violent assault. Several activists have been forced to leave their homes after receiving numerous death threats. The report said that available evidence indicates that the attacks on human rights workers were ordered by Guatemalan army officers. President Vinicio Cerezo's government, said Americas Watch, has not curbed human rights abuses, due to a lack of will or ability. (Basic data from Notimex, 05/15/90)

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